

Design Standards Committee Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2002
City of Tukwila
Suite 100 Conference Room 2
Tukwila, WA 98188
9:00AM – 3:30PM

At a Glance

- Introductions
- Clear Zone Issues
- Five Elements of a Deviation
- LAG Chapter 42 Revisions
- AASHTO publication “Geometric Design Very Low Volume Local Roads”
- 2R 3R Design Matrix
- Roundabout Design Standards

IN DETAIL

Present:

Lynn Price, Ken Brown, Jim Whitbread, Dale Rancour, Gary Nelson, Al King, Jim Seitz, Randy Hart, Bob Moorhead, Larry Schofield, Dave Olson, and Ron Pate

Introductions

All present introduced themselves.

Clear Zone Issues

Al King gave an outline of procedures used and recent problems. Documents presented included, Design Standards Committee Purpose Statement, Three Steps on the Path to Resolution Resolving the Urban Clear Zone and Jurisdictional Questions, and Clear Zone Issues in the AASHTO Green Book.

The purpose statement for the committee was reviewed for intent. The sentence “Construction utilizing lesser standards than these are considered deviations and must have the approval of the Operations Engineer to meet the requirements of RCW [35.78.040](#) or RCW [36.86.080](#) as appropriate.” was an item of focus. Based on this statement, discussion took place on when a deviation is needed.

The “Geometric Cross-Section for Two Way Roads and Streets” chart in the LAG manual is one area that may need clarification. Members were reminded that this chart is for new construction and re-construction only. Asterisk (b) states; “May be reduced to minimum allowed by AASHTO.” Discussion took place on the use of AASHTO minimums and the need to request a deviation. The committee felt that using AASHTO minimums and letting the Professional Engineer use his or her judgment was the correct approach. For example, AASHTO references an “18” operational offset” that could be used as the minimum allowed. They did not want to request a deviation for using AASHTO minimums. A point was made that the AASHTO Green Book refers to the Roadside Design Guide and there may be some conflicts. Research needs to be done.

Three Steps on the Path to Resolution Resolving the Urban Clear Zone and Jurisdictional Questions, a WSDOT Design Office document was reviewed. Under step three, option three, there appears to be a question of definition and intent. The phrase “discretionary immunity” may have legal implications that will need to be addressed.

After the discussion Al outlined an approach to take. Use AASHTO guidance as the starting place for urban growth boundaries, add language that reflects the AASHTO 18” operational offset, include verbiage to do better if possible, and change the “Geometric Cross-Section for Two Way Roads and Streets” chart in the design standards to reflect AASHTO minimums.

Action Item: Ron will add verbiage and edit the “Geometric Cross-Section for Two Way Roads and Streets” chart. This information will then be sent out to the committee for review.

Five Elements of a Deviation

The text and chart in appendix 41.72 in the LAG manual were presented on the white board. There was consensus that the requested information was appropriate in order to evaluate a deviation request, however the presentation might be improved. Discussions included adding verbiage that refers to section 41.6, presentation format, the need to include safety issues, and to list the form as only a sample.

Action Item: Ron will add items the group discussed and possibly reformat the form. It will then be sent out for review.

LAG Chapter 42 Revisions

Ron Pate presented information to the group on proposed revisions to the chapter. The committee reviewed the information and developed the following.

- Change last sentence of the Reconstruction definition. Current – “Reconstruction adds additional capacity for the through traffic lanes.” New – “Reconstruction may add additional capacity for the through traffic lanes.”
- Add the sentence “Not including two way left turn lanes.” to the Traveled Lane Definition.
- Review of AASHTO “Geometric Design Very Low-Volume Local Roads” for adoption. This document will be reviewed for conflicts and to be included as a reference. A clarification on route classifications needs to be done before referencing the document.
- In the Roadway Geometrics section the proposed Approaches/Departures Sight Distance element will be changed to reflect it is for roadways.
- Clarification is needed on the difference between references and standards. For example, under Roadway Geometrics, the Bridge Criteria section items are standards not references. A different title or format may be needed.
- Check the “Geometric Cross-Section for Two Way Roads and Streets” chart and update with AASHTO minimums.
- Add language that spells out when the term "consider" is used, documentation is needed.

These changes will be sent out to the committee for review prior to the next meeting. Changes will not be incorporated in the Design Standards until they are reviewed and approved by the committee and FHWA. Changes such as names, titles, and spelling corrections will be done as always.

Action Item: Ron to make changes and send out for review. All to review AASHTO “Geometric Design Very Low-Volume Local Roads”

2R 3R Design Matrix

Ron Pate went over the draft design matrix and definitions. Discussion took place on it's value and interpretation. There were suggestions for adding project types and it's use in various situations. One benefit of using a matrix would be less documentation. Blank cells on the matrix signifies elements that are outside of the scope of a project and they do not need to be addressed. The draft was handed out and it is also available at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/Operations/LAG/DSCProchanges.html>.

Modified 2R 3R standards from the 1991 LAG manual were presented to the committee for consideration as an interim step to the matrix. These modified standards include the 3R charts that had been previously removed.

The committee will review these documents prior to the next meeting.

***Action Item:** Committee members to review documents and propose changes to the prior to next meeting.*

Roudabout Design Standards

WSDOT Design Manual chapter 915 "Roundabouts" was presented. The committee was asked to review the information for possible reference in the LAG manual.

***Action Item:** Committee members to review chapter 915 prior to next meeting.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:30PM.